

Support wildlife translocations across Australia

Australian Wildlife Conservancy is a leader in threatened mammal translocations, employing the most extensive wildlife translocation program in Australia. This program functions mainly through the reintroduction of threatened or regionally extinct mammals into large, feral-free safe havens. The exclusion of feral predators, such as cats and foxes, is an essential strategy in ensuring the longevity of threatened species and preventing extinction. Managing ten feral predator-free sanctuaries across Australia, AWC has the largest establishment of safe havens, in which 16 mammal species have been reintroduced to date. This complex and successful translocation program is essential in preserving and boosting populations of our most threatened species such as the Bilby, Numbat and Mala.

Golden Bandicoot

2023 was an ambitious year for translocations at AWC, with 20 reintroductions planned for 11 species across the country. This strategic plan included a landmark reintroduction of the Golden Bandicoot - a species which has disappeared from 95% of its natural range - back to Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary. Earlier in the year, the Darran.gu Wulagura women's ranger team, accompanied by AWC ecologists, undertook population surveys of the Golden Bandicoot for the first time on Willingjin Country in the Kimberley. Following this survey, the Ngarinyin people (Willingjin's Traditional Custodians) gifted a founding population of Golden Bandicoots to be part of Newhaven's restoration project. A total of 40 Golden Bandicoots, 20 of which were fitted with radio collars or tags to help monitor their movements and health, were successfully reintroduced to their former range in early August. An additional 40 Bandicoots were further reintroduced from a source population at Barrow Island in WA. The success of this landmark project was thanks to effective collaboration between Traditional Custodians, Ranger groups and AWC ecologists and staff - and, as Chief Science Officer Dr John Kanowski has stated, 'will help secure the long-term future of the species'.





Western Quoll release. Brad Leue/AWC.

Other translocations this year

In addition to the Golden Bandicoot, AWC has been on track to reach its target of 11 translocated species in 2023. To date, a total of 582 individuals have been translocated, comprising of 10 species overall. These include the Red-tailed Phascogale to Mallee Cliffs, the Western Quoll to Mt Gibsson, and a staggering translocation of 211 Plains Mice to the Pilliga.

These translocations allow not only for the boosting of already-existing populations, but also the introduction of genetic diversity - further supporting the long-term persistence of threatened species across the country.

The 2023 translocation program is not over yet. In the last few months of the year, a further supplementation of the Western Quoll is scheduled for Mt Gibson later this year, as well as the reintroduction of the Red-tailed Phascogale to Scotia Wildlife Sanctuary in NSW, where it has been locally extinct for over a century.

Thank you for supporting this project – your contribution to translocations across Australia is essential in ensuring the continued success of Australia’s most extensive wildlife translocation program.

